Mountain Weather Forecast

Lake District National Park

Forecast valid from 06:00 on Wednesday 06 Jan 2021 until 23:59 on Thursday 07 Jan 2021

Forecast Issued on Wednesday 06 Jan 2021 at 02:39

Confidence: High for cold conditions to continue for the next few days. The main uncertainty will be the timing and intensity of snow arriving on Thursday and timing of light snow late Saturday.

Headline for Wednesday 06 Jan 2021: Sunny spells developing. Cold conditions but winds easing.

Mountain weather hazards on Wednesday 06 Jan 2021

Blizzards No Likelihood	**Heavy Snow** No Likelihood	**Storm force winds** No Likelihood
Gales No Likelihood	**Severe chill effect** Low Likelihood	**Poor visibility** Low Likelihood
Thunderstorms No Likelihood	**Heavy persistent rain** No Likelihood	**Strong sunlight** No Likelihood

Weather and chance of precipitation at 800m					
Time					
06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00
Light snow	Fog	Sunny intervals	Sunny intervals	Clear night	Clear night
Precipitation probability					
40%	30%	20%	<05%	<05%	<05%

Forecast for Wednesday 06 Jan 2021

Weather: A cloudy night and start to the day with a few light snow showers, mainly across eastern fells. Showers will die away through the morning with increasing bright or sunny spells. Remaining dry and clear for the rest of the day and evening. Some valley fog patches and a widespread frost in the evening.

Chance of cloud free mountain/hill tops above 800m: 20% early morning, becoming 80% by afternoon.

Visibility: Poor at times in the morning with areas of cloud above 500m and some reductions in snow showers. Improving through the morning as cloud lifts, becoming excellent at all elevations. Patchy valley fog in evening.

Check our weather forecast every day to get the most accurate and up to date information
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Forecast for Wednesday 06 Jan 2021

Height (m)	Wind Speed mean/gusts (mph) Wind Direction (blowing from)						
	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
900	25/29 NE	19/23 NE	14/17 NE	9/12 NE	7/9 NE	4/6 NE	6/8 NW
600	15/19 NE	12/17 NE	9/12 NE	8/11 NE	5/7 NE	3/5 N	4/6 NW
300	6/18 NE	4/15 NE	5/11 NE	4/9 NE	3/6 NE	2/5 N	3/6 NW
Valley	11/25 NE	8/18 NE	8/14 NE	6/10 NE	4/6 NE	3/4 NE	2/5 NE

Height (m)	Temperature / Feels Like (°C)						
	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
900	-4/-12	-4/-11	-4/-10	-4/-9	-4/-8	-4/-7	-4/-8
600	-2/-8	-2/-8	-2/-6	-2/-6	-2/-6	-2/-5	-3/-5
300	-0/-4	-1/-3	1/-2	0/-2	-1/-3	-2/-4	-2/-4
Valley	2/-3	1/-2	3/0	3/0	1/-1	0/-1	-0/-2
Freezing Level*	200m	200m	300m	300m	200m	200m	100m

**Level above which ground is expected to be frozen/snow is expected to settle.*

Meteorologist's View

A severe wind chill at height, particularly in the morning, but winds easing in the afternoon.

Forecast for Thursday 07 Jan 2021

Weather: Dry with clear spells and freezing fog patches overnight. A dry start but cloud soon thickening with outbreaks of snow arriving from the north. The snow may turn heavy for a while but still a lot of uncertainty. Dry and clear conditions arriving from the north in during the evening.

Maximum wind: West or NW becoming NE, 10-15mph.

Chance of cloud free mountain/hill tops above 800m: 80% overnight, becoming <5% as snow arrives in the morning.

Visibility: Mainly excellent at first but patchy valley fog will be slow to clear. Turning very poor at most elevations through the morning and early afternoon. Low cloud developing above 300m giving whiteout conditions over snow cover. Improving through evening as cloud lifts.

Temperature: **Valleys:** Minus 4 or 5C rising to Plus 2C.
At 800m: Minus 3C.
Freezing level: Ground mainly frozen down to valley level.

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Mountain Weather Forecast

Ground Conditions Supplement

Date: Tuesday 5 January 2021. Location: Helvellyn summit at 12:45. Full report: Zac, Wes and Jon are continuing to provide the Fell Top Reports for people who are undertaking their daily local exercise during the lockdown. We would like to remind everyone that Government guidance stipulates that people should only exercise locally, not leaving the village, town or city where they live. High pressure, stable temperatures, similar cloud height and minimal precipitation meant that underfoot conditions have changed little in the past 24 hours. Owing to the fickle nature of showers, however, this may not be the case in other areas of the National Park. Snow can be encountered from 300m, with the main snowline being around 400m. Snow depth rises with height and although the actual depth varies, there is a general covering of between 5cm to 10cm with the deepest drifts able to swallow a 70cm ice axe, although such depth is exceptional. Where undisturbed, the snowpack is very soft. As for the past few days, though, the main hazard on paths is ice. With another overnight frost, there was ice on paths at all levels and this is likely to also be the case on Wednesday especially as Cumbria is under a Met Office warning for ice until 11am on Wednesday. Ice is especially present at lower elevations where snow or ice has thawed during the day, on popular routes where snow has been compacted and where small streams or drainage lines cross paths. Above 500m, such older ice was hidden beneath fresh snow and spindrift giving a false sense of security underfoot. On steeper routes where fresh snow/spindrift lies above older, compacted snow, the two layers have not bonded creating unstable conditions, such as on the exit to Striding Edge.

Small unstable cornices have formed on many different aspects. Owing to very poor visibility today, it was not possible (or rather sensible!) to inspect those above Helvellyn's headwall. The simple advice is to give the top of any steep slope a wide berth. Given a summit windchill on Tuesday of minus 15 degrees C, full winter clothing (waterproofs, extra warm layers, hat & gloves), mountain boots and equipment are all essential for anyone going out onto the fells. For those venturing above the snowline and attempting, or traversing, steep slopes an ice axe and crampons are also essential and are strongly recommended for anyone going above the snowline owing to the amount of ice on paths. For thinner ice on paths, microspikes are extremely useful. Goggles are recommended to reduce the sting of hail and spindrift driven on strong winds. Deep snow obscuring landmarks combined with low cloud creates challenging navigation as paths cannot simply be followed and steep drops are far less obvious, so only venture out in these conditions if you are competent and confident to do so. Temperature: minus 3.8 C, Maximum wind speed 39.8 mph, Wind chill: minus 15.6 C, Average wind speed: 33.2 mph.

Issued at: 02:39 on Wed 06 Jan 2021

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